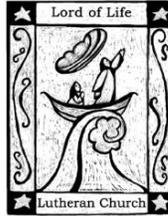


Pastor Wayne Dubnansky
Minister of Music Dr. Brad Hunnicutt
Office Manager Laura Raun
Web Master Gray Anthony

Congregational Council

Alecia Harrison President
Linda Garoutte Vice President
Julie Bogle Secretary
Ken Fillingim Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Sarah Watkins, Steven Brantley, Lindsay
Crocker, Dave Hash, and Dan Hayes

January 2021



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Lutheran Church**
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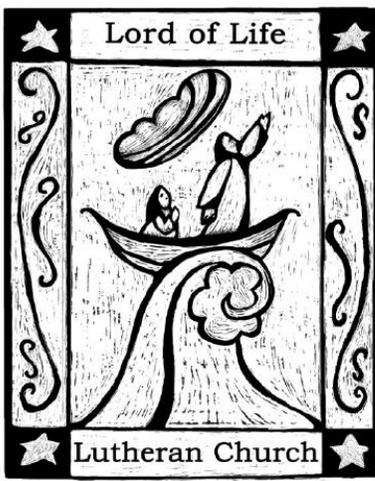


WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

10 & 11 am Sundays
In-Person Worship
10 am Virtual Worship
Livestream
via Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/LoLLCGarner/>



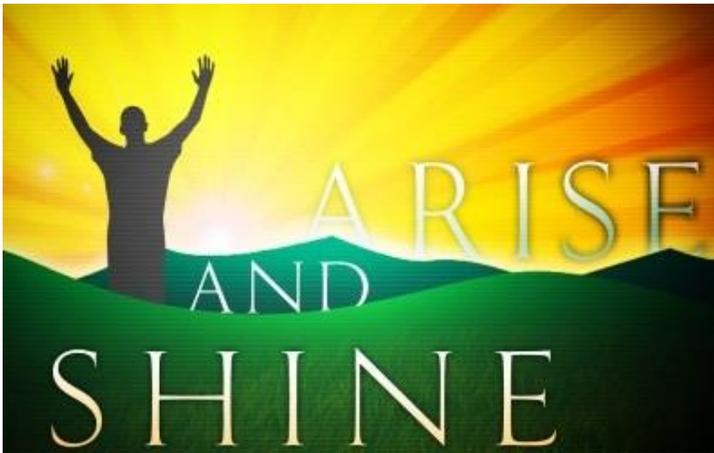


Life-Lines



January 2021

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD



*"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick darkness the peoples,
But the Lord will rise upon you,
And His glory will be seen upon you."
(Isaiah 60:1-2)*

In this passage from Isaiah, darkness covers the earth and God's people. The Light shines, will rise up and be seen. This is saying the Light will be very visible. I hope many of you were able to see the Christmas Star, the Light in the sky, on Monday, December 21st. It shone brightly over the horizon of Lake Benson. In the Old Testament reading from Isaiah the Light is a visible manifestation of God's Presence to His chosen Israelites. It served the same purpose to Mary, Joseph and the wise men. It serves the same purpose for us. Pope Francis has said the Light of Jesus conveys the "face of God's mercy that

has been made visible to us." So we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, The Light in the darkness, and, as I have stated previously, this is a time when it is essential that Jesus Lights up the darkness. As recipients of that Light, we can also enlighten the darkness.

St. Paul in I Corinthians tells us, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." The Greek word of "manifestation" is the same Greek root from which we get the word "Epiphany". It means something visible, observable for all to see like the star we saw Monday, the 21st of December. As we "see" it; however, each of us is given the power of the Holy Spirit in a way that is to be visible to those around us, so that they too may be drawn to the Light, the Light that is the Face of the Father's mercy. We Lord of Lifers are blessed with the gifts and Presence of the Holy Spirit which we "lights" can use to "light up the darkness."

I am currently reading "Edison" bringing to light the life of Thomas Alva Edison who, through his invention of the lightbulb and use of electricity brought light in a different way into the darkness. Still if you shut off the light bulbs, the electricity, the darkness was still there.

Jesus, the Light, overcomes the darkness, and this can only visibly be seen by all of us and our actions by which we bring light to the darkness. We are called to be lights that reach others, being inviting, welcoming people of God, joyfully worshipping the King of Kings in the power of the Holy Spirit.

~ Pastor Wayne



From the Desk of Your Council President

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I have intentionally reminded myself daily that Christmas starts with CHRIST! It is so easy in our busy lives to forget WHY we celebrate Christmas. It often becomes so many other things. But we have a Savior who bravely became human to bear the consequences of our sin. AND He knew how the story would go BEFORE He agreed to come to us on earth. This concept alone is too much for me to grasp! Jesus knew the indignation and suffering that He would endure while walking with us, and came anyway! Oh my! SO I remember every day that Christmas starts with Christ and not commercialism.

Thank you, faithful congregation, for your prayers and financial support. Lord of Life continues to pay their bills and we are on track to pay off the mortgage in seven years. We continue to collect special donations for Infrastructure, including kitchen renovations and cameras in the sanctuary. Last year we had no idea that we would be live streaming worship every week. Thankfully Scott Lokken had the knowledge to set this process up for Pastor to come into our homes every Sunday. The Property Committee has secured an excellent price to have permanent cameras installed in the sanctuary that can be run by a computer in the library. Many people have been working to improve the sound system in the sanctuary. Thanks to all of them!

We are still working toward a congregational meeting to vote on these improvements—sanctuary cameras and kitchen renovations. In faith, we continue to collect donations for both. The Council voted to begin a project ONLY after all the money needed for the project had been collected. We have the money for the cameras but still need a few thousands for the kitchen project. Nevertheless, we cannot go forward with either project without the congregational approval. So we wait for a time when

we can all give our consent appropriately, and of course, ask questions.

I also want to thank the congregation for their generous donations for Staff Gifts. This is a love offering that we collect at the end of the year as a small gift to Pastor, Dr. Brad, Laura and John Ward, our custodian. We were able to give each person the same amount of money we gave them last year. I find that remarkable since we have "met" mostly online this year!

Your Church Council continues to hold hybrid meetings where some meet in person and some meet via Zoom. Our meetings are the second Sunday of each month. Meetings are open to any member of the congregation, but you can also bring any concern to any member of the Council and we will discuss your issue at our next meeting.

I feel fortunate that Lord of Life has never stopped worshipping. Many of my friends are just starting to resume worship inside since the weather has turned cold. LOL enjoyed a LONG Indian Summer where we worshipped (outside) at our Outdoor Altar. Again, thank you Men's Group for providing such an awesome outdoor worship space. We have really given that area a workout this year!!

We did some of our traditional Advent things, such as Hanging the Greens, the Chrismon Tree and the Jesse Tree. We had two worship services on Christmas Eve, although the times had to be adjusted to meet the Governor's guidance for limiting the spread of Coronavirus. Many activities were missed. The BIG one for me is the Christmas Party sponsored by the Men's Group. I usually laugh so hard that my stomach is sore for days! But we are hopeful for next year!

We were able to provide Christmas gifts to a Garner family in need. Again, I thank the congregation because the Social Concerns committee has purchased gifts in the past but there was no need this year. We correctly assessed that providing gifts to one family and doing it well was the best course of action. Thank you Lord of Life for making this possible. And again, our congregation is SO generous!

Remember the people on our prayer list! You may add and remove people as you see fit. We want to be a praying community because there is POWER in prayer! We would not be able to continue as a congregation without your faithful prayers and financial contributions. So again, I thank you!!!

And finally, we are entering the short season of Epiphany. This is a season of LIGHT. We have just

experienced the excitement of the coming Messiah and all that it promises. Christmas is a time of giving and kindness. I charge each of you to continue with KINDNESS first in your mind. We are a LIGHT in this DARK world. Let Christ shine through you each day. Your face may be the only glimpse of Christ that a person sees on any given day. Huge responsibility, but you are up to it!

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison
Council President



We Made It Through!

'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you'
1 Chronicles 29:14

2020 was quite a year!! You name it... we had it! In spite of all the roadblocks that were thrown in everyone's path, Social Concerns made it through! No, we didn't have a banner year, but we had a good year, all things considered. The good fortune for our 2020 Outreach for our special projects was because of you, the congregation. You once again answered the call. We called and you answered; we asked, and you gave; we furnished bins, and you filled them! We even held our yearly Soup-ER Bowl and spearheaded the Book Drive early in the year. And because of you, a family of five had an enjoyable Christmas Day! So, perhaps you donated food, OR maybe you bought a book... OR a coat, OR a toy! Whatever was your involvement, THANK YOU immensely! It allowed Social Concerns to give one-time donations to new organizations that needed immediate assistance... here in Garner; elsewhere in North Carolina; and even abroad.

A whopping thank you goes to the Wednesday Morning Rotary organization. They never wavered in their support of our mission. The many, many times

when they could not meet to enjoy a wonderful breakfast in our Fellowship Hall, they continued the funding as if nothing had changed... we THANK them!

The 5th Annual *Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas Concert* was a virtual musical majesty presented by Dr. Brad and Ray Green. It was an opportunity to "watch computer/TV" as a non-guilty pleasure... THANK YOU Brad and Ray; it could not have been done without you!

Social Concerns Ministry is looking forward to 2021 as a banner year of bountiful giving. Have a blessed New Year and remember "*No person was ever honored for what he received. He was honored for what he gave.*" Happy New Year!

Social Concerns Ministry

Gale Isaacs and Alecia Harrison, Co-chairs
Rita Clark, Treasurer
Helen Holderman, Rotary Liaison
Carolyn Watkins,
Sarah Watkins, Council representative
Enid Weatherwax
Pastor Wayne, Ex Officio
Emeriti Members: Connie Fortmeyer & Paula Pickler





Peace Be With You... A New Day Is Here!

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace! - Psalm 29:11

Have you ever been on a plane in the midst of a storm? I'm thinking of a particular time I was headed to New Orleans to enjoy a weekend of the Annual Jazz Festival. Our flight was delayed for several hours... a 3:00 afternoon departure turned into 6:00 evening. True, delays make us grumpy but, this time, it wasn't as much the delay as it was the turbulence that we experienced once we were in the air. Over the intercom the captain told us that we would fly out of the "choppy" episode very soon. At one point the "choppy" got so rough that there was utter silence throughout the cabin; our minds probably had related thoughts of doom. The plane actually started a horse-like bucking motion that shifted us around... all of a sudden, the captain shouted, "Ride 'em cowboy!" which produced a collective burst of nervous laughter that we all sorely needed at that exact moment. Then, suddenly, the storm seemed to ease up; it became calm and quiet... the storm dissipated. Peace... pure and simple.

That's what Christ's peace is like; it's blessed. It's not an absence of conflict or trouble, instead it's a deep calmness in the midst of trouble caused by the circumstances of life. According to the 14th chapter of John (v.27), just before Jesus died, He gave His disciples a bit of confidence and assurance by telling them, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." He wasn't telling them that everything was always going to be hunky-dory, or that all their circumstances

would be tranquil and serene. On the contrary, they were about to experience tremendous prosecutions, but Christ's peace would strengthen them and weather their storms through it all. That's the exact spirit that we need to embody in this New Year... Christ's Peace.

Peace... a new episode of Peace on Earth and Good Will all wrapped up; a fresh start. As glad as I am to witness that the year 2020 has gone up, up, and away, I often think that New Year's Day comes at a less-than-best time of year. I mean, no matter what, some of the old year's leftover tasks await on the new horizon... taking down the Christmas tree and putting away all the decorations (being extra careful with the glass & delicate treasures), catching up on thank-you notes, and of course, doing all the real work that we suspended during the holidays! So, it seems we start out behind before the new twelve-months series begin... BUT HERE WE ARE! And because we are here, we can bathe in the eternal goodness of the spirit of Christ! The Prince of Peace has come and therefore the Peace of God is our birthright.

So, as we welcome this new year all shiny and bright, let's try to empty our hearts of the worry that sometimes keeps us from fully embracing God's Peace. Psalm 85 reminds us that although people wander to and from the Father and from each other, we are always forgiven; there is always a platform for peace and reconciliation; there is always a place for faith... there is always the love of God. Happy 2021!

Be blessed.
Gale J. Isaacs





Parish Committee

The beginning of a New Year is often accompanied by optimism, hope, and sometimes even New Years' resolutions. I think year 2021 is especially important to be optimistic about our futures and God's goodness for us all. I don't want to waste my time dwelling on the challenges and heartaches of 2020's Corona Virus, Civil Unrest, Business Shut-downs, Political Divides, Unemployment and the list goes on.....

Pastor's Wayne's sermon on December 20th really caught my attention as the primary theme was around "God's Will". If you missed this sermon, I would encourage you to go back and watch it via facebook. We're now blessed with the ability to go back and "rewatch" a sermon if we missed it. Technology "can be" a wonderful thing!

Personally, there's been many occasions this past year when I've prayed for specific requests. Well, it's not God's job to grant my request for "Terry's will", it should be my mission to understand God's will for my life and learn what He expects from me in His will. It's my job to practice having "good fruits". Galatians 5:22-23 talks about the Fruit of the Spirit: "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law*". Jesus said "By their fruits, you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16). The old and new testaments mention "Fruits" on multiple occasions, which represent the outward manifestation of a person's faith, thus their behavior and their works. In 2021, I would like to develop the qualities (Fruits) in my personality of LOVE, JOY, PEACE, etc., which would include "Loving my enemies".

I hope and pray that our church services and fellowship can get back to "normal", at least much closer to the way it was. I miss the worshipping together in the sanctuary and the enjoyable

conversations accompanied by good food in the fellowship hall.

Hope and Pray you all have a fantastic year that is full of God's blessings in 2021.

God Bless you all,
Terry Barnes/Parish Chair



In the words of Jose Feliciano, I want to wish all of the Lord of Life community a Merry Thank You for the generous gift you gave to me for Christmas. It is greatly appreciated and it will be well-spent.

May we as a congregation continue to be Blessed in 2021.

Pastor Wayne



Come by at 10 am on Saturday, January 9th if you are able to help take down and put away the church Christmas decorations.



Birdbox: A Review

Birdbox is a movie, which I have watched, and a book, which I have read, a first novel by Josh Malerman, who is also a member of the band High Strung. The film stays true to the general content of the book with several of, what I consider unnecessary, divergences. Both go back and forth from the time Malorie spends in a totally, darkened to the world, house with strangers to her time on a river rowing to a safe place.

Why review this? you might ask... Simply because I see this as a loose connection to what the world is going through with the Covid-19 pandemic. The house has blinds always drawn because the "pandemic" is creatures or things that cannot be looked at. So when the blinds/curtains are down or closed, blindfolds are not needed; but any time anyone goes outside, he/she needs to wear a blindfold. While the main character, Malorie, is rowing on the river, she too needs to wear a blindfold. We wear masks and if we don't, the result most likely will not be fatal or even illness, but the possibility is there. If the people in the house go outside and take off their blindfolds, or Malorie on the river takes off her blindfold; the result would be fatal.

Those in the "safe house" have to make a decision each time someone comes to the door asking to be let in. Would they be merciful and let the person in not knowing with certainty, if doing so, is safe? Often the merciful choice of letting someone in was not the wise choice, but I have often said in such

situations, that I would rather err on the side of love and mercy despite the consequences.

Malorie, the main character played by Sandra Bullock, is a fierce and dutiful mother who experiences such despair and hopelessness in the new world of blindfolds that her son, whom she gives birth to in the house, and her "adopted" daughter, whose mother succumbed to the evil outside, she is unable to give names to. She calls them "boy" and "girl". She tells her last remaining housemate that "every single decision I have made has been for them, indicating that keeping a glimmer of hope within her is most important. Malorie never totally loses hope even though to us movie watchers her predicament seems hopeless.

Without spoiling anything, I will say Malorie does not hope in vain, but a long and arduous journey must be made in order to get to the Light in the darkness of the world she inhabits. (good Epiphany theme)

A clear spiritual line occurs when one of the housemates says, "Thank You Lord Jesus". Reading between the lines, "Wherever two or more are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) Although unspoken this holds true throughout the film.

As could easily be surmised, there is violence as well as an unnecessary sexual scene. I would only recommend the film if you would like to see a film that takes the Covid pandemic to a new level through creative screenplay, or maybe you want to relive your youth when you did "blind trust walks."

~ Pastor Wayne



We pray for our world and those in it with hope for our future.

Dave Hash; Bud Holderman; Ingrid Albee, long-time friend of the Dubnansky's; Roger Baker; Vivian Sagan; Lora Clark's friend,

Rebecca Bowman, breast cancer; Chevon, Covid-19; Kevin & his family, stage 4 cancer; Julie Roeser's brother, Paul Panek; Sylvia Lambert's nephew, David Wise, complications from surgery; Sarah Watkins, as she looks for a new career opportunity; Dennis King, prayer of thanks for improvement; Dennis King's sister, Beverly, several serious health issues; Shirley Poole; Ken Fillingim; Peg Stamp, myeloma & back surgery; Eric Roeser, rotator cuff surgery; Julie Roeser, eye surgery; Alice Austin's friend, Kathy Koonce, brain tumor; Julia Lochra's cousin, Les Salmon, 3rd spinal surgery; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten, multiple myeloma; Karen Rodgers, stage 4 cancer; Karen Post's friends: Blanca Hernandez, ovarian mass; Dr. Steve Rushton, lymphoma; and Sandy Murphy; Karen Post's cousin, Mike Harris – recurring prostate cancer; Lindsay Crocker's Nephew, Daniel Harman, health and healing; Karen Wright's mother, Carol Goodford, heart issues; Steve Klawiter's mother, Marylou, heart failure; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson, breast cancer; Larry Watson, Joan Stewart's son-in-law, ICV Stroke; Holly Hans' sister, Heather House and her family; Holly Hans' mother, Carol Hardy; Shannon Thomsen's niece, Kylie Gardner, tumors and Turner Syndrome; Paul & Kerri Blanchard's son, Jason, mental disability; Chuck Wallace, Don Wallace's nephew, health problems; Mary Langworthy's son Kyle's Father in Law, Jim Jackson, Multiple Myeloma; Mary Langworthy's nephew, Blake Evans, Chron's disease, surgery for severe fistulas and going through a bad divorce/child custody battle; Christine Brennecke - Corticobasal Syndrome; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.



January

January 3	Dave Hash
January 6	Holly Hans
January 7	Becky Roof
January 8	Grace Barnes
January 9	Anne Marie Dubnansky
January 14	Jamie Bredell Becky Von St. Paul
January 15	Rita Clark
January 18	Gere Savolainen
January 21	Ryan MaCurdy
January 24	Barbara Kyles
January 25	Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

February

February 3	Daniel Cook
February 9	Paul Finger Lisa Hash Burnett
February 12	Daniel Jordan
February 15	Clyde Cook Vince Wright
February 16	Josh Kestner
February 17	Antonio (Tony) Smith
February 21	Patrick Niemann
February 24	Helen Reeves
February 29	Paul Blanchard

PLEASE review the Prayer List & the Birthday List and let Laura or Pastor Wayne know of any updates, deletions, or additions.

thank you!

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sunday Worship Schedule: 10 am & 11 am – In-Person Worship with a Reservation 10 am - Live Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook Live WEATHER PERMITTING -- 11 am Worship will be Outdoors Eucharist – First Sunday each Month</p>					<p>1 </p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 10 am Virtual Worship</p> <p>10 & 11 am In-Person Worship With A Reservation</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>0 10 am Virtual Worship</p> <p>10 & 11 am In-Person Worship With A Reservation</p> <p>11:45 am Council Mtg</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16  Religious Freedom Day</p>
<p>17 10 am Virtual Worship</p> <p>10 & 11 am In-Person Worship With A Reservation</p>	<p>18 </p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 </p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 10 am Virtual Worship</p> <p>10 & 11 am In-Person Worship With A Reservation</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 10 am Virtual Worship</p> <p>10 & 11 am In-Person Worship With A Reservation</p>	<p>January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Today there are between 21-30 million people enslaved in the world, more than at any time in human history. Every day, modern slavery can be recognized: children become soldiers, young women are forced into prostitution, and migrant workers are exploited in the workforce. Begun as a US initiative in 2007, the United Nations has now started to highlight this topic and work towards global awareness with days such as International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.</p>					



January

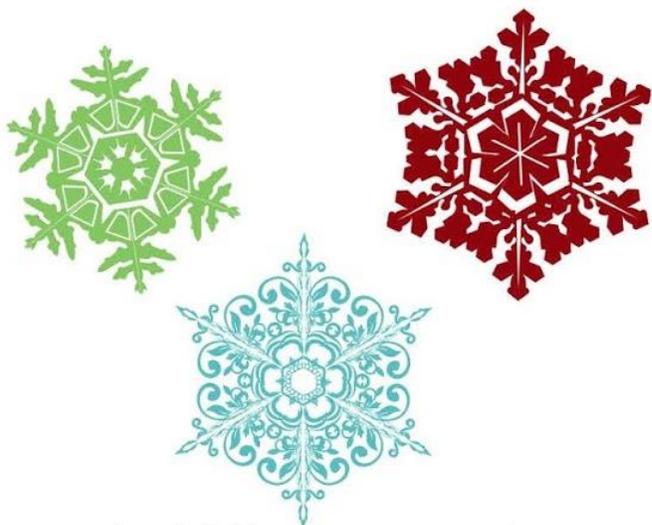
31 Day Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to write out.
Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice
as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Isaiah 43:16-19
Day 2- Lamentations 3:22-26
Day 3- Ecclesiastes 3:11-15
Day 4- Psalm 98:1-9
Day 5- Psalm 90: 12-17
Day 6- Jeremiah 29:11-14
Day 7- Philippians 3:7-14
Day 8- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Day 9- 1 Peter 1:3-9
Day 10- Mark 12:28-33

Day 11- Ezekiel 36:24-28
Day 12- 1 Chronicles 16:8-14
Day 13- Colossians 3:12-17
Day 14- Hebrews 12:7-13
Day 15- Isaiah 40:28-31
Day 16- Philippians 4:4-9
Day 17- Luke 14:28-35
Day 18- Romans 12:1-8
Day 19- Romans 12:9-16
Day 20- Romans 12:17-21

Day 21- Psalm 37:1-6
Day 22- Psalm 37:7-11
Day 23- Psalm 37:18-19, 23-24, 27-28
Day 24- 2 Peter 1:1-4
Day 25- 2 Peter 1:5-11
Day 26- Romans 8:18-25
Day 27- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
Day 28- Psalm 27:1-4
Day 29- Psalm 27:5-8
Day 30- Psalm 27:9-14
Day 31- Choose your own verse



Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
Psalm 119:18